

Learning English with CBC Calgary

Weekly newscast

March 1st 2013

Lessons prepared by Justine Light & Barbara Edmondson

Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/edmonton/learning-english/>

News story #1

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary - Read the definitions below, and then put the sentences in the correct order. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Words and Definitions
turn himself in – to go to the police station and tell them what you have done
charged – to be officially accused of crime
rally - a meeting of people who try to get some action
prompting – to lead to an action
pleaded – to ask for something in an emotional way

1. a rally There was save our to school. to try

2. man turned himself police. to in The

3. pleaded for information The woman her son. about

4. prompted the principal The rally to school close the for one day.

5. woman The charged was the car accident. the after

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true** or **false**. Write your answer in the blanks. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ Two cars were part of the death of Rachel Wong Suk Yee.
2. ____ Rachel Wong Suk Yee was crossing the street when she was hit.
3. ____ Both of the drivers turned themselves in to police.
4. ____ Some people in the community want to organize a rally.
5. ____ The victim's family has asked people to come forward with information..

Discussion Question

How can we reduce the number of traffic accidents in our city?

News story #2

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

hot air balloon	pilot (person who flies a plane)	survive (to live)
burned(hurt by fire)	blame (accuse)	burst (pop, explode)
gondola (basket under the balloon)	investigators (searchers)	chance (opportunity)

1. Fall is a good time to go up in a _____ because you can see the beautiful scenery as the leaves are changing colours. You stand in the _____ under that balloon and watch the world under your feet.
2. If you have the _____, I suggest you visit the zoo, it is a wonderful experience.
3. Don't _____ others for your mistakes. You must take responsibility for your actions.
4. You must be careful around candles so you don't get _____.
5. When the child's balloon _____ he cried.
6. People who _____ the crash were taken to the hospital.
7. The _____ told us to buckle our seat belts and prepare for landing.
8. The _____ looked for clues to help them understand what happened.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Short Answer

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. How many people died in the hot air balloon accident in Egypt?
2. Who survived the crash?
3. How did the accident happen?
4. How far did the balloon drop?
5. Where was the pilot when the balloon caught fire?
6. What should have the pilot done?

Discussion Question

Have you ever ridden on a hot air balloon? Do you think you would enjoy that experience? Why or why not?

News story #3

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word	Definition
	1. flavour	a) a person taken to gain something from those who want him back
	2. Oscars	b) a person who writes music
	3. trophy	c) to act like someone or something other than yourself
	4. hostage	d) taste; a bit of culture
	5. crisis	e) a unique thing; not copied
	6. pretend	f) a prize or award
	7. shipwreck	g) Academy Awards – given for excellence in movies
	8. composer	h) an emergency situation
	9. original	i) a person who controls what the actors do in a movie
	10. director	j) when a large boat sinks in the ocean

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Ben Affleck's new movie Argo won _____ at the Academy Awards this year.	a) the best movie trophy b) the best picture trophy
2. Argo is about a rescue of American hostages in 1979 by Americans pretending _____.	a) to be a Canadian film crew b) to be Iranian soldiers
3. In his acceptance speech Affleck _____.	a) talked about the hostage crisis b) thanked Canada
4. The Life of Pi, directed by Ang Lee won _____.	a) a movie about a shipwreck b) the most awards on Sunday night
5. Canadian composer Mychael Danna won his first Oscar for his _____ for the Life of Pi.	a) his original score (written music) b) soundtrack
6. Yann Martel, a _____, wrote the book Life of Pi.	a) Canadian novelist b) best director

Discussion Question

Did you watch the Academy Awards on Sunday night? Do you think it is important to give awards to those involved in the movie industry? Why?

Language Focus

Present tense

Sometimes when we hear the news they use the simple present tense rather than the simple past or another verb tense.

Here are some examples from our stories this week:

“Nineteen tourists **are** dead...”

“The movie **is** based on the rescue of Americans during the 1979 Iranian hostage crisis.”

“The movie **is** about a plan to help the Americans escape by pretending to be a Canadian film crew working on a movie.”

Common situations we use the present tense:

- when we talk about something true facts in the present
 - I am 20 years old.
 - “Nineteen tourists **are** dead...”
- when we report facts or say something that is always true
 - Edmonton is cold in the winter.
 - “The movie **is** based on the rescue of Americans during the 1979 Iranian hostage crisis.”
 - “The movie **is** about a plan to help the Americans escape”
- when we talk about habitual actions (things that occur regularly)
 - I go to school. I eat lunch at school.
- when we use adverbs of frequency (sometimes, often, always...) we often use the present tense.
 - I sometimes practice the piano.
- when we explain an action set by a timetable or schedule
 - English class begins at 9am.
- when we talk about the future with a specific time/date.
 - The bus leaves at 6pm tonight.

Forming the present simple

The present tense is the **base form** of the verb: I **work** at a school.

Third person (she/he/it) adds an **-s**: He **works** in a store.

Be verb: I am	we are
You are	they are
He/she/it is	you are

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	MARCH 1 ST WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, this is Carla Beynon. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for March 1 st .	0:00
Story 1	Calgary police are still looking for the second vehicle that was part of a deadly hit and run. Fifty-six year old Rachel Wong Suk Yee was hit by two cars as she tried to cross the intersection of Sandstone Drive and Berkshire Boulevard on February 20th. One driver, a 24-year-old man, turned himself in to police later that day and he is charged with hit and run causing death. The second driver is still on the loose. This week a rally promoting traffic safety was held in the community where the accident happened and the victim's family pleaded for information from the public.	0:08
Story 2	Nineteen tourists are dead after the hot air balloon they were riding in caught fire and fell to the ground Tuesday in Luxor, southern Egypt. One British tourist survived as well as the Egyptian pilot of the balloon who was badly burned. The balloon was getting ready to land when the fire started. The balloon went back up into the air, then the fire burst the balloon and it fell 300 metres back to the ground. The balloon crashed in a sugar cane field. Investigators said the pilot jumped out of the gondola when the fire first started, when it was close to the ground. They blamed the pilot for not stopping the fire when he had the chance.	0:50
Story 3	There was a strong Canadian flavour to this year's Oscars. Actor and filmmaker Ben Affleck's movie Argo won the best picture trophy at the Academy Awards. The movie is based on the rescue of Americans during the 1979 Iranian hostage crisis. The movie is about a plan to help the Americans escape by pretending to be a Canadian film crew working on a movie. Affleck thanked Canada in his acceptance speech. The 3D shipwreck movie, Life of Pi won the most awards on Sunday night. Canadian composer Mychael Danna earned his first ever Oscar for his original score for that movie and director Ang Lee picked up the award for best director for the film, based on the book by a Canadian novelist, Yann Martel.	1:36

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary

1. There was a rally to try to save our school.
2. The man turned himself in to police.
3. The woman pleaded for information about her son.
4. The rally prompted the principal to close the school for one day.
5. The woman was charged after the car accident.

Listening

1. T Two cars were part of the death of Rachel Wong Suk Yee.
2. T Rachel Wong Suk Yee was crossing the street when she was hit.
3. F Both of the drivers turned themselves in to police.
4. F Some people in the community want to organize a rally.
5. T The victim's family has asked people to come forward with information.

News story 2

Vocabulary

1. Fall is a good time to go up in a hot air balloon because you can see the beautiful scenery as the leaves are changing colours. You stand in the gondola under that balloon and watch the world under your feet.
2. If you have the chance, I suggest you visit the zoo, it is a wonderful experience.
3. Don't blame others for your mistakes. You must take responsibility for your actions.
4. You must be careful around candles so you don't get burned.
5. When the child's balloon burst he cried.
6. People who survived the crash were taken to the hospital.
7. The pilot told us to buckle our seat belts and prepare for landing.
8. The investigators looked for clues to help them understand what happened.

Listening

1. How many people died in the hot air balloon accident in Egypt? *19 tourists*
2. Who survived the crash? *The pilot and one British tourist survived*
3. How did the accident happen? *The balloon was getting ready to land when the fire started. The balloon went back up into the air and then the fire burst the balloon.*
4. How far did the balloon drop? *The balloon dropped 300m to the ground*

5. Where was the pilot when the balloon caught fire? *The pilot jumped out of the gondola when the fire started.*
6. What should have the pilot done? *The pilot should have stopped the fire.*

News story 3

Vocabulary

Answer	Word	Definition
d	1. flavour	a) a person taken to gain something from those who want him back
g	2. Oscars	b) a person who writes music
f	3. trophy	c) to act like someone or something other than yourself
a	4. hostage	d) taste; a bit of culture
h	5. crisis	e) a unique thing; not copied
c	6. pretend	f) a prize or award
j	7. shipwreck	g) Academy Awards – given for excellence in movies
b	8. composer	h) an emergency situation
e	9. original	i) a person who controls what the actors do in a movie
i	10. director	j) when a large boat sinks in the ocean

Listening

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